

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 29 are pending in the present application.

On 22 FEB 2002, Applicants submitted an information disclosure statement that included a PTO-1449 (hereinafter "the PTO-1449") that lists several U.S. patent documents, several foreign patent documents, and another document. The Office Action includes a copy of the PTO-1449 on which the Examiner indicates that the Office considered the U.S. patent documents. However, the Examiner did not indicate that the Office considered the foreign patent documents or the other document. Applicants respectfully request that with the next communication, the Examiner includes **a copy of the PTO-1449 indicating that the Office considered the foreign patent documents and the other document.**

On page 1 of the Office Action, several claims are objected to because of an informality. In particular, the Office Action states that the claims recite a group of items, and that the claims should list the items in the alternative form, using "or" instead of "and." Applicants respectfully disagree. The objected claims are in the form of a Markush group. MPEP 803.02 states:

A Markus-type claim recites alternatives in a format such as "selected from the group consisting of A, B, and C" (emphasis added).

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objected claims are in proper form. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully solicited.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,092,048 to Nakaoka (hereinafter "the Nakaoka patent"). Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent claims. Applicants are clarifying an aspect of claims 1, 11 and 21 that is not disclosed by the Nakaoka patent.

Before addressing the substantive differences between the claims of the present application and the Nakaoka patent, Applicants wish to address a minor administrative issue. Although the

Office Action is applying the Nakaoka patent in the rejection of the claims, the Nakaoka patent is not yet listed on a PTO-892. Applicants respectfully request that with the next communication, the Examiner **please list the Nakaoka patent on a PTO-892.**

Claim 1 provides for a method. The method includes exhibiting a work item in a process view that presents a graphical representation of the work item within a process, and includes a directed line that represents a sequential relationship of the work item relative to another work item in the process.

The Nakaoka patent is directed toward a task execution support system. FIG. 11 of the Nakaoka patent is a diagram of a task list display section (col. 6, line 65). The task list display section does not include a directed line that represents a sequential relationship between tasks. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Nakaoka patent does not disclose exhibiting a work item in a process view that presents a graphical representation of the work item within a process, and includes **a directed line that represents a sequential relationship** of the work item relative to another work item in the process, as recited in claim 1. Thus, the Nakaoka patent does not anticipate claim 1.

Each of independent claims 11 and 21 include recitals similar to those of claim 1, as described above. Hence, claims 11 and 21, for reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, are also novel over the Nakaoka patent.

Claims 2 – 10 depend from claim 1, claims 12 – 20 depend from claim 11, and claims 22 – 29 depend from claim 21. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 2 – 10, 12 – 20, and 22 – 29 are also novel over the Nakaoka patent.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 – 29.

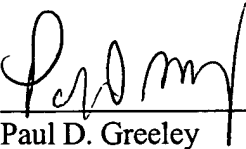
As mentioned above, Applicants are clarifying an aspect of claims 1, 11 and 21 that is not disclosed by the art of record. Additionally, Applicants are amending all of the claims (except for

claims 12 and 13) for one or more of (a) ensuring an antecedent basis for terms, (b) improving form, or (c) deleting recitals that do not appear to be necessary for patentability. None of the amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any term of any claim. Therefore, the doctrine of equivalents should be available for all of the terms of all of the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

3-27-06
Date



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